

News Release

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SARAH K. BLANE, CHIEF OF STAFF OFFICE OF THE MAYOR Tel (808) 241-4900

Mayor Kawakami welcomes Governor's Stay-at-Home Order, will establish 'local rules' for Kaua'i

LĪHU`E—Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami welcomes and fully supports Governor David Ige's statewide Stay-at-Home Order, and will establish additional "local rules" for Kaua`i residents as they are identified.

Gov. Ige's order goes into effect statewide just after midnight Wednesday morning.

Over the weekend, the COVID-19 disease begin ramping up, increasing exponentially across the state.

"I think we're at an inflection point," said Kaua`i District Health Officer Dr. Janet Berreman.

There are four confirmed cases on Kaua`i and several others under investigation, with an increase of 21 confirmed cases overnight.

"In an attempt to block islandwide growth in COVID-19 transmission, and to protect Kaua`i's families, we need to take aggressive and immediate action to shut down the ability for the virus to infect new victims. Our goal for Kaua`i is to keep people in their homes, avoiding contact with other individuals, for at least 14 days," said Mayor Kawakami.

"If the community complies, we have a chance," he added.

The governor's Third Supplemental Proclamation will remain in effect from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, March 25, until 11:59 p.m. April 30, 2020.

It mandates that people stay in their homes, whether that home is a house, apartment or hotel room. Leaving those units should only be for rare, essential activities, and anyone leaving home for an essential purpose must maintain strict social distancing.

The proclamation defines essential activities, such a shopping for food and medical supplies, and it outlines the kinds of businesses that can remain open, such medical centers, public utilities, construction trades, hardware stores, and restaurants that serve food for off-premises consumption. Businesses not included in the exemptions should be run remotely from home, or should cease activities. Solitary exercise, like running, surfing, one-man canoeing, and walking pets on a leash, are permitted as long as participants keep to social distancing recommendations. For exemption details, see the Third Supplemental Proclamation at governor.hawaii.gov.

Mayor Kawakami said he will establish Kaua'i-specific exemptions, or "local rules," and they will be announced as needed during the coming days. All of the mayor's previous rules remain in effect, including the islandwide curfew from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.

To view Mayor Kawakami's rules, or for more information on COVID-19 here on Kaua'i, please visit www.kauai.gov/COVID-19.